

PHILIPPIANS

THE THANK YOU LETTER

THE EPISTLE TO PHILIPPIANS

- * The city of Philippi was named after King Philip II of Macedon, father of Alexander the Great.
- * It was a prosperous Roman colony, which meant that the citizens of Philippi were also citizens of the city of Rome itself.
- * They prided themselves on being Romans (see [Ac 16:21](#)), that Paul referred to the believer's heavenly citizenship ([3:20-21](#)).
- * Many of the Philippians were retired military men who had been given land in the vicinity and who in turn served as a military presence in this frontier city.

* **CHAPTERS:** 4 | **VERSES:** 104



THE BACKGROUND

- * Paul ministered at Philippi during his second missionary journey, spending about three months in the city.
- * **Acts 16:13-15** As there are few Jews and no synagogue in **Philippi**, Paul and his companions go to the riverbank just outside the city on the Sabbath day, and begin to speak to the women gathered there. One of them, Lydia - is a wealthy dealer in expensive purple cloth (which only the most important Roman citizens were allowed to wear), who opened her home to Paul and his coworkers
- * Paul later briefly visited the city on his third missionary journey (**20:6**)
- * **Acts 16:16-40** Each day in **Philippi**, Paul is pestered by a demon-possessed girl keeps shouting and drawing attention to Paul and his companions. Exasperated by this, Paul casts the evil spirit out of the girl - to the fury of her owners who see their profits disappear.
- * Paul and Silas were thrown into prison and locked in the 'inner cell'
- * Around midnight, however, Paul and Silas are set free by a violent earthquake. The jailer (and all his family) become believers and are baptised.

THE BACKGROUND

- * Of the four Prison Epistles, Paul likely wrote Philippians last, near the end of his Roman imprisonment in AD 61 or 62.
- * Paul sent the other three Prison Epistles—Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon—by the hand of Tychicus, as their destinations were near one another.
- * However, the letter to the Philippians was to be delivered by Epaphroditus, who had come to Paul in Rome with financial help from the church at Philippi ([Philippians 2:25; 4:18](#)).
- * But during his time in Rome, Epaphroditus took ill, which delayed his return home and, therefore, the delivery of the letter (2:26–27).
- * The apostle Paul did not write Philippians in response to a crisis, as he did with Galatians and Colossians.
- * Instead, he wrote to express his appreciation and affection for the Philippian believers.

SUMMARY OF PHILIPPIANS

- * More than any other church, the believers in Philippi offered Paul material support for his ministry (2 Corinthians 8:11; Philippians 4:15-18).
- * Paul's primary purpose in writing this letter was to thank the Philippians for the gift they had sent him upon learning of his detention at Rome (1:5; 4:10-19).
- * However, he makes use of this occasion:
 - (1) to report on his own circumstances (1:12-26; 4:10-19);
 - (2) to encourage the Philippians to stand firm in the face of persecution and rejoice regardless of circumstances (1:27-30; 4:4);
 - (3) to exhort them to humility and unity (2:1-11; 4:2-5);
 - (4) to commend Timothy and Epaphroditus to the Philippian church (2:19-30); and
 - (5) to warn the Philippians against the Judaizers (legalists) and antinomians (libertines) among them (ch. 3).

SUMMARY OF PHILIPPIANS

Philippians has 4 chapters, and each chapter has a major theme

- Chapter 1 - Christ is our LIFE. 1:21
- Chapter 2 - Christ is our EXAMPLE. 2:5
- Chapter 3 - Christ is our HOPE. 3:7
- Chapter 4 - Christ is our STRENGTH AND SOURCE OF SUPPLY. 4:13

Often quoted passages:

Philippians 1:6: "He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus"

Philippians 1:21 "To live is Christ and to die is gain" (1:21),

Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" (4:13) are just a few

Philippians 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"

Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

OVERVIEW OF PHILIPPIANS

1. **Salutation ([Phl 1:1-2](#))**
2. **Thanksgiving and prayer ([Phl 1:3-11](#))**
3. **PAUL'S IMPRISONMENT AND OPPOSITION ([Phl 1:12-18](#))**
4. **PAUL'S EXPECTATION OF DELIVERANCE ([Phl 1:19-26](#))**
5. **EXHORTATION TO BEHAVIOR WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL ([Phl 1:27-2:18](#))**
 - STAND FAST IN ONE SPIRIT ([Phl 1:27-30](#))
 - BE OF ONE MIND BY FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST ([Phl 2:1-11](#))
 - SHINE AS LIGHTS IN THE WORLD ([Phl 2:12-18](#))
6. **PLANS INVOLVING TIMOTHY AND EPAPHRODITUS ([Phl 2:19-30](#))**
 - TO SEND TIMOTHY SOON ([Phl 2:19-24](#))
 - TO SEND EPAPHRODITUS AT ONCE ([Phl 2:25-30](#))
7. **WARNINGS AGAINST JUDAISM AND ANTINOMIANISM ([Phl 3:1-21](#))**
 - AGAINST JUDAISM ([Phl 3:1-11](#))
 - AGAINST ANTINOMIANISM ([Phl 3:12-21](#))
8. **EXHORTATIONS TO UNITY, JOY, AND PEACE ([Phl 4:1-9](#))**
 - AN APPEAL TO EUODIA AND SYNTYCHE ([Phl 4:1-3](#))
 - EXHORTATION CONCERNING JOY AND PEACE ([Phl 4:4-9](#))
9. **THANKSGIVING FOR THEIR GENEROSITY ([Phl 4:10-19](#))**
 - THEIR GIFT A SOURCE OF JOY TO PAUL ([Phl 4:10-14](#))
 - THEIR GIFT A SOURCE OF BLESSING FOR THEMSELVES ([Phl 4:15-19](#))
- CONCLUSION ([Phl 4:20-23](#))**